

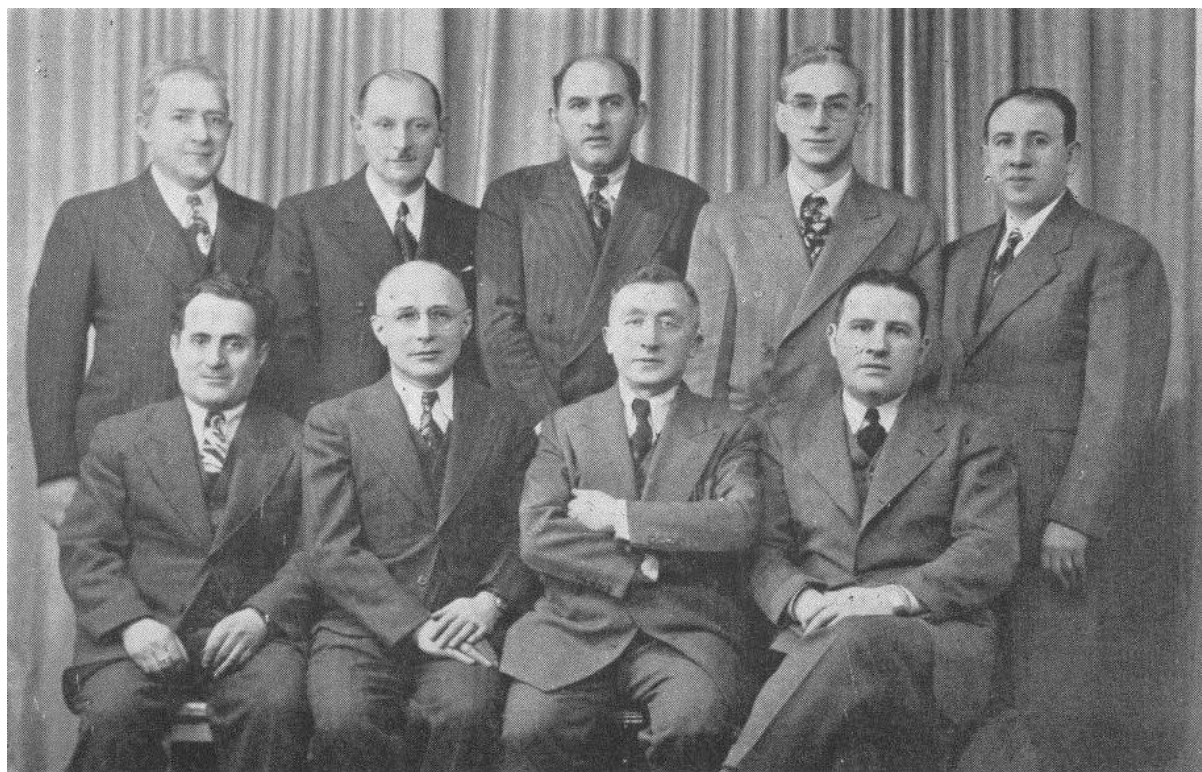
W. Glikzman

Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Montreal (Canada)

The first founding meeting of a *Częstochower landsmannschaft* in Montreal took place on 16th December 1945, at the initiative and at the home of Mr Meyrowicz¹-Wajcman. Mr Nathan Gelber, Mr Borzikofski [Borzykowski] and his wife, and Messrs Silver [and] Berkowicz were [also] present.

The main question at this meeting was how to assist the survivors in Częstochowa. The assembled *landsleit*, who on this occasion had met for the first time, eagerly welcomed Flw Meyrowicz's initiative and unanimously decided to actively embark on aid work for Częstochowa.

Immediately elected were Temporary President - Mr Berkowicz; Vice-President - Nathan Gelber; Treasurer - Dawid Gelber; Campaign Manager - Borzikofski; Campaign Chairman - A. Meyrowicz, and as Temporary Secretary - Philip Meyrowicz.



**Management Committee of the
Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Montreal (Canada)**
Seated (R-L): Dawid Gelber, R. Federman, H. Berkowicz, A. Mayerowicz
Standing: H. Jablonkiewicz, J. [?] Klein, N. Gelber, M. Zylberberg, A. [x] Wajskof

The President, Mr Berkowicz, opened the fundraiser meeting, donating the first \$25. Other contributions followed: Mr Nathan Gelber - \$25; Mr Meyrowicz - \$25; Mr Borzikofski - \$10; Mrs Silver

¹ [TN: Almost certainly ref. to Abraham **Meyrowicz** (aka Mayerowicz), a founder of the *landsmannschaft*. The second surname – Wajcman – does not appear in any other source, and it is unclear how it pertains to Mr Meyrowicz; perhaps the house was shared by two families.]

- \$10, and Mrs Jaris and Mrs Bels - \$5 each. In total, \$100 was raised that month. With the decision to call another meeting on the 30th of that same month, the session was concluded.

A large function of *Częstochowers* in Montreal took place on Sunday, 17th February 1946, at a memorial meeting in the hall of the *Arbeiter-Ring*, dedicated to the martyrs in Częstochowa.

The stage is decorated with images of the time of the destruction and of present-day Częstochowa.

The Chairman, Mr M. [sic A.] Meyrowicz, presents President H. Berkowicz to those assembled, who acquaints the attendees with the goal of today's meeting. On this occasion, the memory of Chenstochover Aid Society in Montreal member, Mrs Nora Klein, is sanctified. Messrs M. [sic A.] Meyrowicz and Szlojme Grund deliver speeches about this prematurely deceased [member].

Following greetings from two *landsleit* delegates from Toronto, Mr D. Klein, Rabbi² [Dr] Ch. Denenberg and the [Society's] lawyer Leon Krystal, the National Chairman, give speeches about those who perished, and on the duties of American Jewry as regards their brothers and sisters overseas. Cantor Abram Matz performs *El Moleh Rachamim*³.

Guest speaker Raphael Federman, in an impressive lecture, presents a picture of the destruction in Częstochowa and of the current state of affairs in our hometown. He calls those assembled to continue aiding the survivors in the home of old. The fundraiser that is conducted collects over \$800.

With an appeal [for people] to continue joining the Chenstochover Aid Society, President H. Berkowicz closes the meeting.

Marking the first anniversary of the existence of the Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Montreal, on Thursday, 26th December 1946, a banquet was held, at which Honorary President George Klein thanked those assembled for the good work and presented, to them, two young children from Częstochowa who had just arrived - the Wajskop brothers.

The Chairman, Flw M. [sic A.] Meyrowicz, gives a report on the activity so far: \$1,700 in cash, 1,200 lbs of clothes, as well as a large number of private parcels have been sent to Częstochowa.

On the Chairman's appeal, the sum of \$1,140, which was designated for Częstochowa, was raised from among the thirty-five guests present at the banquet.

The Society also displays strong activity in the realm of internal organisation. The monthly meetings and the intensive work of several individual members are also a guarantee of the further existence of a *Częstochower landsmannschaft* in Montreal, and that they will continue aiding their old hometown.

² [TN: In English in the original (רַבֵּנִי), instead of the Heb. term "Ruv" habitually used in ref. to Orthodox rabbis.]

³ [TN: "God Full of Compassion"; memorial prayer.]